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**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
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Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 05-36

DATE: 09/23/2005

FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: National Enhanced FoodShare Policy for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees.

CROSS REFERENCE: Operations Memo 05-33

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo outlines the new National Enhanced FoodShare Policy for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees. Operations Memo 05-33 outlined the temporary 3 month certification period for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees. These policies are to remain in place for the certification period, however, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is now allowing states to provide one month of benefits at the maximum benefit level.

BACKGROUND

FNS is implementing a new, one-month policy for certifying evacuees who have left Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi because of Hurricane Katrina. This policy applies in all states, the District of Columbia, and the territories only for September and October, 2005.

The policy provides for a one-month maximum food stamp benefit for any evacuee household. Eligibility is based simply on evacuee status.

POLICY

The Enhanced FoodShare policy for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees is effective immediately.

Under this policy, households that meet all four of the following requirements are eligible to receive a one-month FoodShare benefit equal to the maximum allotment for the household size:

1. The household lived in a county or parish in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi on August 29, 2005, and
2. The President declared the applicant's county or parish to be a disaster area, (see Operations Memo 05-33 for a complete list) and
3. The household has moved to another state. This policy does not apply to a household that did not move or moved within a state, and
4. The household applies by October 31, 2005.

The allotment is not prorated even if the filing date is after the first day of the month. One monthly maximum allotment may be issued to the household for either September or October (if the application is made in October), based on this policy.

Household size is determined by the applicant's statement. These households are separate households even when purchasing and preparing meals with others. If the household chooses to be included in a food unit with other household members who are not evacuees, the evacuee policy does not apply.

Eligibility Criteria

All non-financial and financial criteria are waived. However, if the household has received food stamp benefits in another state and has access to those benefits, they would not be eligible for FoodShare benefits in Wisconsin until their case is closed in the prior State.

Verification of Identity

Verify every applicant's identity to the extent possible. A signature on the HCF 10170 Hurricane Katrina Evacuee Information Form is sufficient verification of the individual's evacuee status and identity.

Quality Control

These cases are not subject to quality control reviews.

PROCEDURE

Because Medicaid, CTS, Child Care and W-2 require the entry of income and assets in CARES, workers will have to issue auxiliary FS benefits for evacuee cases not receiving the maximum allotment in either September or October. Use CARES code <905> when issuing the auxiliary.

In addition, when entering Case Comments on why the auxiliary was done, reference this operations memo.

NOTE ➤For cases already confirmed and have had benefits issued, the Department will issue auxiliary benefits to bring the initial month's issuance to the maximum allotment amount for the household size. Case comments will also be entered systematically and will reference this document.

Financial and non-financial information must be collected and entered for any benefit months following the initial month. Apply the Temporary FoodShare policies for Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Ops Memo 05-33 for three months following the initial month's issuance of the maximum allotment.

REMINDER ➤ Hurricane Katrina Evacuee cases certified under the temporary policies for FoodShare and Medicaid are certified for the application month plus three months. After confirming the benefits, the worker must update AGOR to reflect the correct certification period. Refer to Operations Memo 05-33 for more information on other applicable temporary policies.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.
DHFS/DHCF/BEM/JE/LA